

Affordability Committee
March 27, 2007 Meeting notes

Present: Phil Killam, Pat Hanberry, Ken Eidel, Pat Rosensteel, Maria Shuck, Nicole Hoff, Carol Antoniewicz.
Regrets: Helen Monk

Bold underline indicates folks taking action.

Full Coalition Items: Next meeting will be May 23, 4-6 pm for election of officers. 5 at large, 4 as chairs of committees. Contact Leigh Joos and Pat Rosensteel on the Nominating Committee if you wish to serve. County employees cannot be on Executive Committee. Those who attended last meeting (March 13) shared highlights. For May 23 we should give a legislative report.

Affordability Committee: We need a chair. Nominees: Pat H. and Phil. Pat agreed to serve as chair. Carol will serve as secretary. She asked members to update their phone, email and will forward the updated list. New: P.killam@comcast.net; mtshuck@comcast.net

Needs Assessment: It will cover health care needs/status as well as access issues. Since questions are normed, additional questions will be limited. Concerns are about method of survey - use of telephone means some segments of community will not be reached. Other concerns: Will cell phones be included? Can we recruit folks to fill out a paper survey? Can FMH staff handout surveys to LEP folks? Will there be focus groups? Will they assess for travel distance for medical care, Culturally competent practitioners, translation services? Do you have insurance, does employer offer it? Did company coverage change – increase cost, decrease benefits? If not buying, why not? If there was state-sponsored affordable premium plan, would you purchase it? Are you insured but cannot find providers in Fred. Co.? Will special populations: low-income, people with disabilities, seniors be special focus group? Assess mental health needs: ever experienced depression, would you seek help, ever had trouble getting provider? **Pat** will share concerns with Dr. Brookemeyer and ICC.

In the future, consider asking University interns to do specialized surveys. Hood (Dr. Kerry Strand) is doing a study for Community Action Agency. Nicole Hoff will present her Dental study at Hood in late April.

Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC): Frederick Co. reportedly does not meet criteria. Must be MUP medically underserved population; MUA medically underserved area. Four criteria include infant mortality; doctor to population ratio; percent of residents in poverty; percent over age 65. **Phil**, who worked with the Bureau of Primary Care, will contact Carol Garvey in Montgomery Co.

Cover the Uninsured Week April 23-29: Home page from www.covertheuninsured.org was distributed.

Leigh and Carol are organizing a table at Children's Festival, Baker Park April 28, to help families enroll in MCHP. Volunteers are needed 10 am to 3 pm. **Maria** Shuck will ask Wellness Center about doing something on diabetes and children. Tickler for next year – plan ahead for “cover the uninsured” week.

Legislation: House has passed health expansion bill, to cover adults up to 116% poverty. Senate is resisting tobacco tax – voters should let them know WE WANT \$1 TOBACCO TAX to fund health expansion THIS YEAR. **Pat** will email letter that can be sent to Senators. **Federal:** Congress is working on bills to require Mental health parity – MH services must be covered at same %, co-pay, etc. as medical services.

Committee goals: Goals related to legislative process and advocacy for health legislation have been met. Some activities will continue. At next meeting we can outline a few new goals. **Next Affordability meeting will be Tuesday April 24.**